

# P-Patch Community Gardening Program

## Giving Gardens

TIP

PP501

7/24/14

*P-Patch TIPS are reference documents that address topics related to the development and ongoing management of P-Patch Community Gardens.*

P-Patches have a long tradition of growing healthy, organic food to share with others. Each year P-Patchers together donate over 10 tons of produce to food banks and meal programs. Gardens and Gardeners are encouraged to make food bank gardening part of their regular activities. The lead volunteer on this task should work with the Lettuce Link Program at Solid Ground and P-Patch staff. Lettuce Link can help with information on food bank locations and hours, in-demand produce, seeds and lots of helpful advice (206-694-6754 or <http://www.solid-ground.org/Programs/Nutrition/Lettuce/Pages/default.aspx>). P-Patch staff can provide garden space, seeds, and link you to other gardeners interested in giving gardening.

### Organizing

There are many approaches to organizing giving garden efforts in your P-Patch. All are great ways to share the bounty of your garden. Use any combination of these approaches that works best for your P-Patch.

- Dedicated Food Bank “Giving Garden” Bed: Individuals work together to care, harvest and deliver.
- Gardeners Donate from Plots: Some gardens (especially those that are small) coordinate to plant rows of within their individual beds. A specific crop is decided upon (like onions), planted, and harvested at the same time for delivery one or two times a year. This also needs an organized delivery system.

Plant a Row  
for the Hungry 



### Gleaning

Many gardens have initiated policies and systems for gleaning produce from people's plots if produce is not being harvested. Working with all gardeners to glean unused produce can also be helpful with theft problems because all food is being harvested and used. If someone is going out of town, they can ask a fellow gardener to harvest for the food bank.

### A recipe for successful giving

These are the ingredients that are part of successful Giving Gardening. Think about how you'll engage other people in your garden or neighborhood to carry out these activities.

**People:** volunteer recruitment/ appreciation

**Growing:** planting, caretaking/cultivation, harvesting

**Sharing:** prepping/cleaning, weighing/ logging produce totals, and delivery of donations to local food bank or feeding program.



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## Giving Garden Tips

How you can create a successful Giving Garden at your P-Patch. Full Giving Garden Tips can be found at: <http://www.solid-ground.org/Programs/Nutrition/Lettuce/Documents/GivingGardenTips.pdf>

- 1) Food bank growing calendar for Seattle
- 2) Tips to help you solicit donations
- 3) Gardening Tips: Improve soil, grow big yields in small spaces, protect your crops from pests and save seeds
- 4) Produce [Donation Record form](#) to help you track donations to report to Lettuce Link.

## Where to Donate

A comprehensive list of Seattle-area food banks, meal programs and low-income apartment buildings that gladly accept fresh produce donations, including contact information, best hours



to donate, and preferred donations. List can be found at: <http://www.solid-ground.org/Programs/Nutrition/Lettuce/Documents/WhereToDonate.pdf>

## Additional Resources

### Lettuce Link:

<http://www.solid-ground.org/Programs/Nutrition/Lettuce/Pages/default.aspx>

Lettuce Link also has translated vegetable signs (pdf): These signs name common giving garden produce (beets, chard, crookneck/ pattypan/ yellow squash, kale, leeks & winter squash), and briefly explain how to prepare them.

Join the citywide P-Patch Giving Garden e-mail discussion listserv: <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/email.htm>

### Seattle's Giving Garden Network:

The "GIVINGGARDENS" list serve and Seattle's Giving Garden Network [www.sggcn.org](http://www.sggcn.org) is a good place to look for updates related to getting starts, and opportunities to connect with other gardeners working on giving gardens.

To contact the Giving Garden Network directly email:

[SeattleSGGN@gmail.com](mailto:SeattleSGGN@gmail.com)

[SGGN.org](http://SGGN.org)

### FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Seattles-Giving-Garden-Network/251699648291076>

### Other P-Patches

Ask P-Patch staff for connections with other gardens that are running successful giving programs.

[Yes We CAN food](#)

[Emergency Food Network](#)



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